



## Child Safeguarding Statement

**Sligo Tennis Club** provides tennis, badminton and squash activities and opportunities for children and young people through participation in parks, clubs, regional, provincial events and with our representative teams.

The NGB's (Tennis Ireland, Badminton Ireland and Irish Squash) are committed to safeguarding children and young people. All our affiliated stakeholders work under the guidance and policies of our Safeguarding Code. All our volunteers and staff working with children throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe environment for children and young people to participate in Tennis.

### Principles to safeguard children from harm

**Sligo Tennis Club** is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our *NGB* Safeguarding Policies our staff, both volunteers and employed, working with our young people, throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop within sport. The following set of principles should be adhered to:

**Importance of childhood** - The importance of childhood should be understood and valued by everyone involved in tennis.

**Needs of the child** - All children's sport experiences should be guided by what is best for children. This means that adults should have a basic understanding of the emotional, physical and personal needs of young people.

**Integrity in relationships** - Adults interacting with children in tennis are in a position of trust and influence. They should always ensure that children are treated with integrity and respect, and the self-esteem of young people is enhanced.

**Fair Play** - All children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. The principles of fair play should always be emphasised, and organisers should give clear guidelines regarding acceptable standards of behaviour.

**Quality atmosphere & ethos** - Children's sport should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere.

**Competition** - Competition is an essential element of tennis and should be encouraged in an age and level appropriate manner. A child centred ethos will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place.

**Equality** - All children should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion.

Sligo Tennis Club's Risk Assessment document indicates the areas of potential risk of harm, the likelihood of the risk occurring, and gives the required policy, guidance or process documents



require to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified and procedures to manage these risks are contained in the following categories: :Club and Coaching Practices; Complaints & Discipline; Reporting Procedures; Use of Facilities; Recruitment; Communications; and General Risk of Harm.

The Risk Assessment was reviewed on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, (the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice and Gateway Northern Ireland). In addition to our Risk Assessment document described above, there are further procedures that support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our activities.

**Sligo Tennis Club** has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

- Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff or volunteers against a child availing of our activities.
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers to work with children in our activities.
- Procedures for access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.
- Procedures for managing trips away and hosting children.

*Please see our website for our full safeguarding policy*

**The Relevant Person for Sligo Tennis Club is Cathryn Bogan the Children's Officer or DLP  
Cathryn Bogan**

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our Club is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our activities.

Please note the following:

- That all staff will be furnished with a copy of this statement.
- This statement is available to parents/guardians, the Agency and members of the public on request.
- This statement will be displayed in a prominent place by **Sligo Tennis Club**

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024



Signed: 

Date: 10th September 2024

(On behalf of the Sligo Tennis Club)

Name: Cathryn Bogan

Phone no: 0830531252

*For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact –*

**Sligo Tennis Club Children's Officer**

**Cathryn Bogan 0830531252**

**PJ Tivnan 0876148864**